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4 October 2019

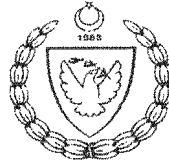
Your Excellency,

I have the honor to convey herewith a copy of the letter dated 4 October 2019 addressed to Your Excellency by H.E. Prof. Kudret Özersay, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

İsmet Korukoğlu  
Representative

H.E. Mr. Jerry Matthews Matjila,  
President of the United Nations Security Council  
for the month of October 2019  
New York.



**TURKISH REPUBLIC OF NORTHERN CYPRUS  
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTRY AND MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

4 October 2019

Excellency,

I feel obliged to write to Your Excellency, to inform You as regards My Government's decision on the fenced area of Maraş (Varosha) and what is aimed by this decision, in view of the letters, addressed to You and your predecessor, dated 18 September 2019 and 1 October 2019 respectively, by the representative of the Greek Cypriot administration of Southern Cyprus in New York, which are attempts, based on misrepresentations and defamation, to occupy the agenda of the United Nations Security Council at a time when the Council is seized of more critical issues.

I would like to state, at the outset, that the pretext for the archaic propaganda, contained in the above-mentioned letters, had, in fact, collapsed, particularly following the rejection of the Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) as regards the fenced area of Maraş on numerous occasions as well as the overwhelming rejection of the comprehensive settlement plan for Cyprus by the Greek Cypriot side in 2004 and the breakdown of Cyprus Conference in 2017, Crans Montana, Switzerland- at the crux of all of which is their unwillingness to share power and prosperity with the Turkish Cypriot side (S/2004/437).

The Greek Cypriot leadership and political elite's policy on the fenced area of Maraş just like on the Cyprus question, has, unfortunately, been one of intransigence. In fact, a former prominent Greek Cypriot inhabitant of the said town, namely Mr. Andreas Lordos, has called on the Greek Cypriot administration "to cease its intransigent mentality and stop abusing Maraş as a political tool to put the onus on the Turks" (Greek Cypriot daily *Politis*, 25 August 2019). No doubt, the repercussions of this antagonistic policy has been heavy for the fenced area of Maraş as well as its former inhabitants, including Greek Cypriots and EVKAF foundation.

**H.E. Mr. Jerry Matthews Matjila,  
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In view of the above and in the absence of a prospect for a negotiated settlement in Cyprus in the near horizon, my Government has decided that some gradual steps need to be taken as regards the fenced area of Maraş, which will be in line with international law, first and foremost protecting and respecting the rights of former inhabitants of this town. As a first step our Council of Ministers took a decision tasking Maraş Inventory Commission, composed of specialists and experts, to conduct a scientific inventory, identifying and studying the condition of the moveable and immovable properties and the environmental risks, which would allow us to see the whole picture as regards the fenced area of Maraş, thus facilitating the determination of any future steps, including changing the military status of the area so as to realise the rights of its former inhabitants. It is crystal clear that none of these steps violate the relevant UN resolutions which call for respect for rights of its former inhabitants without awaiting a settlement. In fact, maintaining the unacceptable status quo at the expense of the rights of the said inhabitants would be the violation of the relevant UN resolutions. It must also be underlined that my Government's decision does not in any way prejudice a possible negotiated settlement on the island.

I am pleased to state that former Greek Cypriot inhabitants of the fenced area of Maraş are very excited and supportive about my Government's said decision, publicly stating that this decision will provide for them to go back to their properties, which they are ready to do so (Cyprus Mail Online of 10 March 2019.) I trust that these steps will be very constructive in terms of addressing the deep crisis of confidence between the two sides and their peoples on the island, allowing all former inhabitants, including Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots to work together and to cooperate, building confidence and creating interdependencies- all conducive steps to a negotiated settlement on the island.

However, it is apparent from the letters of the Greek Cypriot representative that the Greek Cypriot leadership and political elite, who has created itself a "comfort zone" within the form of the unacceptable status quo on the island, is terrified of any disturbance to this unacceptable status quo, hence is doing its utmost, including calling for a closed meeting of the Security Council with the aim to prevent any steps to be taken as regards the fenced area of Maraş, despite the former Greek Cypriot inhabitants' support for these steps as well as to the detriment of realisation of their rights after many decades.

In the face of the Greek Cypriot allegations, I must also emphasise that the owner of this decision as regards the fenced area of Maraş is the Turkish Cypriot Government and not Turkey. It must be borne in mind that neither Turkey nor the Greek Cypriot administration of South

Cyprus has any jurisdiction or control in North Cyprus. My Government exercises full control, jurisdiction and authority in North Cyprus and is the only legitimate and competent authority to decide on matters pertaining to North Cyprus. Furthermore, references to the Turkish Cypriot Government by the Greek Cypriot side as “subordinate administration” is an insult to the democratic will of the Turkish Cypriot people, which elects and forms the said administration, and the will of which will determine any future negotiated settlement on the island, as was the case at the 2004 separate and simultaneous referenda for the comprehensive settlement plan on Cyprus, overwhelmingly approved by the Turkish Cypriot side and rejected by the Greek Cypriot side. Such an approach on the part of the Greek Cypriot administration is not surprising since this is the very mentality which repetitively rejects the political equality of the two peoples on the island also referred to in the relevant UN resolutions which the Greek Cypriot side cherry-picks when quoting.

Lastly, the claim of “occupation” is a sheer fallacy. Turkey, in accordance with her rights and obligations under Article 4 of the 1960 Treaty of Guarantee, legally intervened on the island in July 1974, to end the forcible suppression perpetrated against the Turkish Cypriot people by the Greek Cypriot side between 1963 and 1974, preventing annexation of the island to Greece and the total annihilation of the Turkish Cypriot people. I also would like to underline that, the presence of the Turkish army, in line with the consent of the Turkish Cypriot people, is the deterrent, which has been providing for peace and stability on the island since 1974.

I trust that Your Excellency and the esteemed members of the United Nations Security Council will duly take into consideration the above facts and considerations.

I would be grateful if the present letter is circulated to all members of the Security Council.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Prof. Kudret Özersay  
Deputy Prime Minister and  
Minister of Foreign Affairs